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C. P. Close, Senior Extension Horticulturist

THE BIG HORTICULTURAL CONFERENCE AT ATLANTIC CITY

The American Society for Horticultural Science will hold its annual meeting in Atlantic City, N. J., on December 29, 30, and 31, 1936, in connection with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As usual there will be a conference of extension horticulturists at 8 p. m. on the first day, December 29. On the program will be several short addresses on methods and results by State men, and a general summary of outstanding State results by the Federal Representative.

Here is the annual request to each State extension horticulturist. Please send to the Washington office by the first week in December a paragraph or two giving the essential features of your most satisfactory line of work in 1936. If you have two outstanding projects to report, just send them along. Here is your chance to let every other extension horticulturist know about some of the good work you are accomplishing. Last year 75 of our group responded to this call. Out of our present 139 members at least 125 ought to respond.

Please do not send an annual report, or even a part of one, for the editor to dig out something creditable that you have done. A paragraph or two in your own words is all we want. Thank you.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Division of Cooperative Extension and
Bureau of Plant Industry Cooperating.

EDITORIAL

Back on the Job

The Federal Extension Horticulturist has had a vacation since the first of April because C. P. C. was ill at home from the end of March to early September. He is back on the job now in the office, but is not yet able to make field trips. If he can be of any service to you at any time please write.

It was a great source of satisfaction upon returning to the office to learn that the number of State horticultural specialists had been increased to 139, the most ever. Only one State, Nevada, does not have a State horticultural project. However, some horticultural extension work is done by the Nevada county and home agents, thus horticulture covers the Nation.

It has been a pleasure to read the plans of work for 1936. Most of them are satisfactorily improved over past years. A very few have changed little with age. Not many mention 4-H club work. Some still omit a State map. Speaking of maps, the plan on home beautification from Ohio has 13 State maps, each line of work has its map; not a bad idea. The Michigan plan carries seven maps. Let us become more map conscious.

Luck is not what happens to you, but what you do with the things that do happen.

STATE SPECIALISTS

This list of specialists entering or leaving the service may not be correct or complete, but is the best that could be made up from the State Directors' budgets received since last March. If the State specialists will be good enough to report all who begin or terminate service in their State the active list can be kept up to date. Kindly state the last position of those entering service, and the position to which those leaving are going. Would like this information to date from January 1, 1936.

Alabama.--Prof. Julian Brown has been State Director of Resettlement Administration since September 1, 1935. This is a temporary position, and Prof. Brown expects to return to extension work later.

Colorado.--Mr. R. A. Bashor has the position formerly held by Mr. W. M. Case, who is on adjustment work with marketing agreements.

Delaware.--Mr. E. W. Greve is doing extension work in Delaware.

Indiana.--Mr. H. E. Young has returned to the position of garden work which he held several years ago.

Mississippi.--Prof. A. B. McKay, who, for many years was extension horticulturist and retired several years ago, is in his old position, temporarily.

Mr. S. W. Davis has taken up the work formerly carried by Chesley Hines a couple of years ago.

Maryland.--Mr. E. P. Walls is assisting part time with canning crops.

Massachusetts.--Miss Ruth Howe has the position in horticultural manufactures formerly held by Mr. P. Isham.

Minnesota.--Mr. Eldred Hunt now has charge of the extension work in Minnesota.

Nebraska.--Mr. T. H. Haskins is doing extension work with potatoes.

New Jersey.--Mr. R. B. Farnum has been appointed to handle the extension work in floriculture, and Mr. B. C. Blackburn the work in landscaping.

New York.--The record is not quite clear, but it seems that Mr. A. M. S. Pridham is back in the ornamental horticultural work which Mr. J. A. De France handled temporarily, and Mr. R. C. Allen and Mr. Kenneth Post have been appointed to this same project. Mr. Ora Smith is another new member of the horticultural group, his work being with potatoes.

North Carolina.--Mr. L. P. Watson has been added to the extension force here.

Ohio.--Mr. C. H. Poesch has been added to the staff in landscape work.

Texas.--Miss Sadie Hatfield, formerly district agent, now has the position in landscape work which Miss Onah Jacks held until she recently became State girls' club agent.

Utah.--Mr. A. L. Stark has charge of the extension work formerly done by Mr. J. C. Hogenson.

Vermont.--Mr. C. E. Van Deman now has charge of extension work in Vermont.

Virginia.--Mr. A. G. Smith, jr., is assisting in the landscape work.

West Virginia.--Dr. H. E. Knowlton has left West Virginia to accept a position with the WPA in the section on Employment Trends and Changes in Industrial Technique.

Dr. L. P. Batjer has resigned to enter service in the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, United States Department of Agriculture.

TRUE STORIES FROM THE STATES

Prof. W. O. Edmondson, extension horticulturist in Wyoming, sent in this story of the "Lilac Town." Projects of this kind using lilacs or any other plants might be worth organizing in any of the States.

Some years ago Ventura, Calif., adopted the poinsettia as a street and yard ornamental shrub. It is hardy there and some specimens have developed into shrubs 15 feet high with a trunk diameter of 10 inches. Holland, Mich., is the "Tulip Town." Tulips by the thousands are planted in yards and parks, and along the streets between the walks and curbs. Tuliptime in Holland is a festive season. The Ventura and Holland town beautifications are not extension projects.

"Basin, the Lilac Town"

The town of Basin, Wyo., initiated last spring one of the largest and most interesting and attractive projects of any Wyoming town. The public-spirited citizens there adopted the slogan, "Basin, the Lilac Town." This year they are planting approximately 1,200 lilacs, including French hybrids, Persian, and the common, to beautify the lots of residents and also vacant lots along the oiled highway leading from the south to the north entrances of the town.

Eighteen to twenty different varieties are being used in several combinations of color, of singles and doubles, of sizes of flowers, etc., and the several groups will be banked at the back by the tamarisk, a hardy shrub for that locality. The tall, slender stems and the heath-like leaves of the tamarisk will contrast very satisfactorily with the larger stems and foliage of the lilacs, while the long, pink spikes of flowers on the tamarisk will blend in a most satisfactory manner with the varying shades of whites, pinks, and purples of the lilacs.

No shrub is more patient, enduring, hardy, and worthy of praise than the lilac. It thrives in most soils here and, with the exception of occasional late frosts, it blooms each spring. Many of the plants used are varieties that will bloom the second or third year, so the age-old statement that, "Lilacs do not bloom until the seventh to tenth year" does not apply any more.

Because of the fact that Basin is on the main highway leading to Yellowstone National Park from the East, the attraction of these plantings along the streets will prove of special interest to the hundreds of tourists who travel through there every summer. The project should be an incentive for the tourists to tarry in Basin and probably spend a few hours enjoying the beauty and aroma of the lilacs as well as the many other beautiful yards and flowers.

Mr. A. W. Coons and Dr. Chester H. Harris of Basin are sponsoring the lilac project and, because of the interest and cooperation of the residents, they are to be congratulated for their success in getting the program started.

The Extension Service is assisting with planting plans for the several units, every one is "falling in line", and proper direction is the paramount issue in this delightful project.

Home Beautification in Duplin County, North Carolina

The following story is taken from the 1935 annual report of Miss Pauline Smith, northeastern district home demonstration agent and acting home beautification specialist in North Carolina. This is quoted just as Mrs. Zack Williams wrote it, with one short paragraph left out. The story speaks for itself.

"When we first built our home there was just an ordinary yard in front of the house, with a circular driveway. I had flowers planted up around the house with a straight walkway going out to the driveway.

"I used to pass homes with pretty yards, and often wondered how I would improve mine. It didn't seem to be fixed like I wanted it, but I just didn't know how to go about fixing it. My husband didn't want the circular driveway cut out and there didn't seem to be any way at all to fix it up with it left in.

"One day I saw in the Progressive Farmer where they had started a yard contest in order to get all the farmers and their wives interested in fixing up their home grounds. I was so delighted with it that I joined at once, but that didn't get my yard fixed, for the 'depression' was on us, but just the same I was determined to fix it.

"My son wanted the yard fixed so badly that he was willing to help in every way he could.

"One day I was sitting by the window, sewing, and wondering how I could possibly fix the yard and leave the circular drive out, when I looked and saw a car coming into the yard. I saw a woman get out of the car, and come towards the house. So I went out to meet her. She introduced herself as Mrs. McSwain, the new county home agent, and said she was trying to organize a club in the neighborhood, and wanted to know if I would be interested in joining. I told her I would be glad to join. It seemed that she had gotten the rest of the neighbors to join, so at the first meeting we planned a yard contest, and I was appointed leader of the contest.

"Mrs. McSwain made a trip and showed me how I could improve my yard, and finally got my husband to consent to cut out the circular driveway and have a straight driveway coming up the side of the yard. She told me what kind of shrubbery to get and showed me where to set it.

"We had a lot of visitors, for ours was the first yard work done in my neighborhood. Everybody was so thrilled with my yard and home. They all said it looked five hundred dollars better. But I didn't have my yard fixed just like I wanted it, so one day I said to my husband that I would like to have a few more pieces of shrubbery. He said, 'all right', so we

went back to the nursery, and when we left we had another carload, more than before.

"My son and I got up early next morning, and set out all the shrubbery we had brought home.

"He disked the ground for the lawn, then plowed it with the two-horse plow, to make a good seedbed, and then sowed the grass seeds.

"When the club members conducted the yard tour last September, a year ago, I was chosen the first prize winner in Duplin County Contest. Miss Pauline Smith, who was judge of the yard contest, told me I still didn't have it fixed right. She said it looked one-sided, that I needed to take in more space on the right hand side of the driveway. My husband seemed willing, so we took in a space he had planned for potatoes this year, and that called for more work and shrubbery. I was wondering how I was going to get the money to buy all that extra shrubbery, so I started getting up on Saturday mornings and going to curb market in Kinston, twenty miles away, where I sold chickens, eggs, meat, and vegetables, and raised the money to pay for all the shrubbery I set out in the whole yard. Although it is many miles away, I surely do enjoy going to curb market.

"Last spring my son started improvements on the outdoor living room, and he built seats, and a pergola out of some old scrap lumber which didn't cost anything but the time to make them, and the paint which cost one dollar. This fall he built a lily pool for the outdoor living room which cost eighty cents for the cement. He made a rock garden around it.

"My flower garden was moved to the back of the outdoor living room and I have set out six rose bushes, and most all kinds of cut flowers, including dahlias, gladiolas, petunias, narcissus, tulips, chrysanthemums, iris, peony, verbena, and many other kinds of flowers.

"We have put in an extra driveway this year on the outside of the right hand border of shrubbery, for the farming implements to be taken in and out, and to keep from cutting up the front driveway so badly.

"Most of the work done on the entire yard was done by my son and myself. We have hired some one to help us a few times, but I have paid them with money I made by going to curb market.

"When we planted the new lawn we made a good seedbed by plowing, and diskings it the same as we did the first time, then we sowed 25 pounds of carpet grass seeds for the side and front lawn, and 10 pounds mixed grass seeds for the outdoor living room. Now we have a very pretty lawn which attracts very much attention.

"During the first year of the contest we set out, on the lawn and around the house, 125 pieces of shrubbery, and bought only 30 pieces. The second year I set out 164, and bought 28 pieces.

"I raised 175 pieces. My friends and relatives gave me the rest.

"I have some crapemyrtles, which I intend for shrubs, and some for trees. I have two mimosa trees, and there are also a few coralberry shrubs. There are 6 Japanese roses. I prize all these, for they are some that my mother and grandmother grew in their yards.

"For my box flowers, I have 3 different kinds of ferns, 3 geraniums, 2 cacti (one that blooms at Christmas, the other in May), 2 begonias, and 1 poinsettia. It is in full bloom now. It is a real beauty, the flowers are so large and rich looking.

"This fall when we had our yard tour, my yard was considered the prettiest in the county, and I got first prize. Last year we had but four yards in the contest. This year we had 22, so you see Duplin County is improving her yards.

"As for myself I can't do enough to it for I can say that I have never done any kind of work that gave me as much pleasure as fixing my yard, a place of heavenly rest and peace for all.

"I must say that my husband is just as thrilled over the yard as my son and I. He brings his friends and relatives around and shows them the different improvements we have made. He realizes that our home is more than just a place to stay. My son is just as proud of it as he can be, and is always ready to help in any way he can.

"Since I have joined the contest we have had the out buildings painted, moved an old hen house, and the wood pile, and have built a garage for the car. The cost of all paint is \$57, labor \$42. We also painted the dwelling house. All that money was raised from the sale of farm products.

"There has been a ditch filled up which ran across the lawn, and dirt has been hauled for the driveway. We paid out \$5 for labor there.

"We bought a water pump, which cost \$55. I intend to continue improving the home and home grounds as long as I stay able to do so."

"The best time to mail an angry letter is one week after it is written."

THE DIVISION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROPS AND DISEASES

Mr. R. C. Wright has done some interesting work in preventing rancidity in pecan meats, and gives the following account of his method and results. This will be of special interest to horticultural and home-economics specialists in the pecan country.

A Simple Method for the Home Preservation of Pecans

It has long been a commercial practice to keep pecan meats either under vacuum or in cold storage to prevent the development of staleness and rancidity. These methods are of course out of the question for the housekeeper interested only in the preservation of relatively small quantities of nut meats for home use.

A method has been demonstrated by the Department which will be of interest especially to those in the Southern States who wish to keep a fresh supply of nuts for home use throughout the summer.

Freshly cracked nut meats were put into glass fruit jars; then the rubber rings and tops were put in place with the spring clips in place but not tightened down. The jars were then put into an ordinary wash boiler provided with a wooden rack to keep them from contact with the bottom. The boiler contained about two inches of water, which was brought to a boil. After the water had boiled for 15 to 20 minutes, while the lid was kept on tight, the jars were rapidly removed one at a time and the tops tightened by pushing down the spring clamps as quickly as possible.

These jars of nuts were kept in the dark at ordinary room temperature throughout the summer and tasted. They were found to be of good eating quality and free from rancidity, while those that were kept in similar jars but not heated were practically inedible because of rancidity.

Similar lots of meats that were heated for shorter and longer periods did not prove to be as good as when heated as described.

Most housewives will recognize this method of preparation as very similar to that often used for the home canning of fruits and vegetables.

This method will be found to be simple and inexpensive. Use only meats of good quality, and preserve or can them during January or February before deterioration has already started. Do not cover the jars with water as when vegetables are preserved; two or three inches is sufficient. Do not remove any jar lids until ready to use the meats.

"We must mold our ideals or they will mold on us."--Dr. John W. Holland

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"When you haint got no education you simply got to use your brains."
- Uncle Ezra.

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Having one's nose on the grindstone occasionally is a good sharpener
of the wits. - Dr. J. W. Holland.

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*DB = Department bulletin; C = circular; MP = miscellaneous publication;
TB = technical bulletin; Q = Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine;
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Uncle Ezra says, "Jumping at conclusions isn't half so good as
digging for the facts."
